

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05061 081213Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 /020 W  
-----031071 081214Z /53

O R 081155Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO USIA WASHDC  
SECSTATE WASHDC 4317  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 5061

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M; IPS; IBS; INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - SECRETARY'S MIDEAST VISIT

1. BAATH ONLY PAPER PUBLISHED AUGUST 8. HEADLINES FOCUS ON MIDEAST SITUATION GENERALLY, PROMINENTLY MENTIONING U.S./ISRAELI RELATIONS IN PEACE EFFORT. BANNER HEADLINE: "SYRIA'S PRINCIPLED STAND ON PEACE EFFORTS MEETS BROAD ACCEPTANCE. OBSERVERS SAY PRESIDENT ASSAD CONFRONTS AMERICA WITH NEED TO FOCUS ON ESSENCE OF THE ISSUE. ISRAEL CONSIDERS VANCE'S DISCUSSIONS OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES DEPARTURE FROM AGREEMENT BETWEEN CARTER AND BEGIN."

2. UNDER CAPTION: "LARGE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WORDS AND DEEDS," BAATH COLUMNIST MOHAMMAD MANSOUR WRITES: "SOME NEGATIVE SIGNS (INDICATE) A LARGE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION'S PLEDGES FOR HELP TOWARDS UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JUST PEACE AND THE ACTUAL PRACTICES OF THE ADMINISTRATION, WHICH BY AND LARGE BOOST ISRAEL'S INTRANSIGENCE. AMONG THESE PRACTICES IS THE ALLOTMENT OF THE LARGEST PORTION OF AMERICA'S FOREIGN AID FOR ISRAEL."

3. BAATH COLUMNIST ABDULILAH MALLAH GIVES DIRECT AT-

TENTION TO VANCE MISSION IN COLUMN ENTITLED: "WHY WORKING GROUPS...WHY SYRIA?" MALLEH COMMENTS: "IT SEEMS THAT THE INITIAL FAILURE ENCOUNTERED BY SECRETARY VANCE'S MISSION HAS NOT LESSENED HIS DETERMINATION, BUT HAS STRENGTHENED IT, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN HIS REQUEST TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS COUNTERPART, SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM DURING THE UN SESSION IN NEW YORK. THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC EFFORT NEEDS THESE CONTACTS SINCE THEY PROVIDE THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION WITH THE ABILITY TO GUAGE THE EXTENT OF THE NEED FOR SOME FORM OF SETTLEMENT. YET THE RESULTS OF THESE CONTACTS REMAIN IN DOUBT SINCE (U.S.) MEDIATION HAS NOT ACCEPTED THE TWO PRINCIPLES VITAL TO THE ARABS: COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL AND THE RECOGNITION OF THE PLO AS THE SOLE AND LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARAB PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."  
KEITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009